

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000678

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/27/2013

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: GOT FOCUSES EFFORTS ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES

REF: ANKARA 419

(U) Classified Polcouns John Kunstadter; reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

11. (U) This is an action request; please see para 6.

12. (U) Jan. 23 MFA DDG for Consular Affairs Topcuoglu called us in to discuss GOT developments in the fight against trafficking-in-persons (TIP). Topcuoglu stressed local, regional, and national efforts to raise awareness of the issue, prosecute individuals accused of TIP, and assist TIP victims.

13. (C) Recent GOT initiatives include:

- Implementation of anti-trafficking law- Article 201 (b)- which was passed in August 2002. While definitive information from the GOT Records Department is pending, MFA highlighted four cases currently pending in local Turkish courts. Two trials are ongoing (one on the Black Sea Coast and one in eastern Turkey) while two cases accusing multiple individuals of TIP are continuing in Istanbul.
- Draft law centralizing the issuance of work permits in the Ministry of Labor has been submitted to Parliament. Currently, multiple Ministries, including Ministries of Education, Tourism, and Labor, have the right to give preliminary permission to issue work permits. The annex to the law will set up a work permit system for women to work in domestic services. Passage of this law would allow for tighter examination of who is applying and receiving work permits.
- Establishment of a coordination committee for TIP within the Ministry of Interior. Various departments are represented, including Foreigners and Borders departments, Organized Crime and Smuggling department, and Public Security department.
- Governors of 15 cities, believed to be principal destination points for victims of TIP, are exploring the idea of converting state-owned unused social training centers to shelters for TIP victims.
- Governorates of same 15 cities have been instructed by the Ministry of Interior to issue humanitarian visas and temporary residence permits for TIP victims to begin the rehabilitation process.
- Ministry of Interior will give the first training program to raise awareness of the TIP issue to 75 officers from 15 provinces in the next few months.
- The Directorate on the Problems and Status of Women held a panel in December 2002 on the issue of TIP. The 200 plus attendees included NGO representatives, journalists, police chiefs, and MFA officials. According to the MFA, each group offered a different perspective of the situation but believed both GOT agencies and NGOs must work together to assist victims.

14. (C) Emb requested a copy of GOT's national action plan and timeline for the implementation of projects. Topcuoglu responded that the next meeting of the inter-agency working group is imminent and claimed the plan would be completed then. Topcuoglu continued that shelter openings were a "medium term" issue to be resolved, since buildings must be identified and then NGOs would take over the management of the shelter.

-----  
Comment and Action Request  
-----

15. (C) Comment. These significant initiatives illustrate GOT steps to focus on concrete actions to combat the problem of trafficking. These set GOT anti-TIP actions in motion on a national level and demonstrate the GOT's commitment to increasing victim assistance and prosecuting perpetrators of trafficking-in-persons.

16. (C) Action request. MFA DDG Firat Fatma Topcuoglu will

attend G/TIP conference in February "Pathbreaking Strategies in the Global Fight Against Sex Trafficking." Embassy reiterates its request for a meeting between G/TIP director Miller and Topcuoglu (reftel). Such a meeting would help GOT continue to focus its efforts on combating TIP.

PEARSON